

PROVIDENCE BULLETIN (R. I.)  
25 January 1980

# Chafee, other senators call for changes to facilitate covert operations by CIA

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WASHINGTON — Sen. John H. Chafee joined Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan, D-NY, and five other senators yesterday in calling for legislative changes that would limit outside access to CIA files, slash the number of congressional panels entitled to briefings on the agency's covert activities, and impose criminal penalties for blowing the cover of intelligence agents working abroad.

The senators' news conference announcing the introduction of the legislation came less than a day after President Carter told Congress the agency must be freed from "unwarranted restraints" and that controls on sensitive intelligence information must be tightened.

White House press secretary Jody Powell said the administration hoped to send its proposals to Congress within a few weeks. The administration has been working with Congress for three years on a proposed charter spelling out what the agency can and can't do, and Powell indicated the two branches of government were nearing agreement. But the senators said something had to be done immediately to bolster the agency.

In a statement released at the news conference, Moynihan, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said, "For too long, we have seen in our own nation a threat to our liberties which, more properly, ought to be seen in places outside our country. Simply stated, we have enemies in the world.

"It is the KGB, not the CIA, which threatens democracy."

CHAFEE, also a member of the Intelligence Committee, contended that Congress had overreacted to past abuses by the agency and that it was now necessary to correct this imbalance.

He and others said some laws were making the agency less than willing to indulge in covert actions and that the legislation introduced yesterday would help correct this.

Chafee cited the Hughes-Ryan amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act as an example of a law that needed to be changed. That amendment, passed in

1974, limits covert actions in foreign countries to those deemed important by the President. The amendment further requires the President to brief eight committees of Congress on such activities "in a timely fashion."

The senators indicated the amendment discourages the agency from taking on some sensitive tasks, possibly in conjunction with foreign governments; for fear that word might get out with so many senators and congressmen privy to the secret plans.

The senators proposed reducing from eight to two the number of congressional committees which must be briefed on covert plans.

The Senate and House Intelligence Committees would be the only panels entitled to the reports.

Chafee told newsmen the dramatic reduction in reporting requirements would not allow the agency to run wild. "The Senate Intelligence Committee is hardly a rubber-stamp for the CIA," he said.

(The Senate Intelligence Committee also intends to sponsor a major cutback to the Freedom of Information Act that would prohibit public access to countless CIA documents, according to Sen. Walter Huddleston, D-Ky. Huddleston, chairman of the Senate Intelligence subcommittee on charters and guidelines, said the proposal would restrict the right of American citizens seeking information about themselves to obtain records of CIA operations, the Washington Post reported.)

(Much of the information the CIA has had to make public in recent years — from its files on the John F. Kennedy assassination and the agency's drug-experimentation programs to its domestic spying operations — could be denied automatically under this new rule, the Post said.)

The senators said Americans would still have the right to obtain unclassified material about CIA operations when seeking information about themselves. But a whole realm of unclassified material would be placed out of bounds for at least some organizations.

Chafee said it is absurd that the CIA must conduct searches of its files, at the taxpayers' expense, for organizations such as the KGB, the Soviet spy agency,